

Sunday
Aug 24, 1980

Dear Mom & Dad,

I suppose the house seems pretty quiet now, but it won't be long before Mary moves home. It sounds like she was very busy and had a great time in Bellevue.

Maybe you have received the pictures I mailed last week. There will be plenty more so don't get tired of looking at them.

The weather has been very nice lately. The weekend was mostly sunny but cool; we wore sweaters outdoors. On Saturday we drove south about 15 miles to Hampton Court, the principle palace of Henry VIII and later kings. It is on the Thames and encompasses, with the gardens, about 50 acres. The royal apartments are very rich with many masterpieces on the wall. There is a indoor tennis court built by Henry VIII in 1530. The gardens are beautiful as you will eventually see in photos.

Last night we had smoked eel and a tomato-avocado salad. This morning we made French toast which turned out very well because of the dense bread available here. We put English honey on the toast and agreed that no one could eat better than we!

Our daily paper, the London Times, is on strike. The management offered 18% to the journalists but they are demanding 21%. So you can see that inflation is a problem here.

Today we walked a few blocks to the Notting Hill area which is the site of a yearly West Indian Festival. There were thousands of people following a parade of steel bands, dancers, and singers. With all the colorful spectators it was quite a sight. The festival continues thru tomorrow, a national "bank" holiday; the last Monday in Aug. Next weekend we're off to northern England and the Roman wall. Now I'll write to May. Love,
Jim & Vickie